

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-31 were pending in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 16 have been amended. Claims 2 and 17 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3-16 and 18-31 accordingly remain pending.

Claims 9 – 15 and 21 – 31 have been allowed.

The Examiner indicated Claims 2 – 8 and 17 – 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Butts, Jr. et al. While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of Butts, Applicant has nevertheless amended Claim 1 to include the features of Claim 2, and has amended Claim 16 to include the features of Claim 17. Accordingly, Claims 1 and 16, along with their respective dependent claims, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel Deposit Account No. 501505/5500-69700.

Respectfully submitted,



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